

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 16 and 22 have been amended. Claim 23 has been cancelled. Claims 16-22 are pending and under consideration.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 112

Claims 16-23 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Appropriate correction has been made to independent claims 16 and 22. Regarding claim 16, claim 16 has been amended to clarify that the control unit controls the motor and the pumping unit to simultaneously operate. Regarding claim 22, claim 22 has been amended to clarify that the control unit controls the motor and the pumping unit to simultaneously stop.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejections is requested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 102 and 103

Claims 16-18 and 21-23 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Kwon (US 6,516,484) (hereinafter "Kwon").

Claims 19 and 20 were rejected under USC 103(a) as unpatentable over Kwon in view of Kim et al. (US 2003/0024056) (hereinafter "Kim").

Claims 16-21

Amended claim 16 recites: "...a water level sensor to detect a water level of the rotary tub when the pumping unit and the motor are simultaneously operated, wherein the water level sensor to detect a water level of the rotary tub is mounted inside the rotary tub." Support for this amendment may be found in at least paragraphs [0013] and [0027] of the specification.

The Office Action relies on Kwon to show the water level sensor recited in claim 16 and specifically relies on 5:12-5:18 of Kwon. In Kwon, at the water feeding step S1, a level sensor (not shown) is installed on the washing tub 60 to sense the level of water fed into the washing tub 60. Kwon, 5:12-5:18. In contrast to claim 16, in Kwon the water level sensor is installed on the washing tub 60 rather than inside the rotary tub.

Regarding the secondary reference Kim, Kim does not discuss sensing a water level at all.

This technical feature of claim 16 provides a drum washing machine which circulates water contained in a water tub into a rotary tub to be sprayed onto laundry simultaneously with the rotation of the rotary tub in opposite directions, so that the laundry is sufficiently and uniformly soaked with water within a short time, and then the amount of load of the laundry can be precisely determined, thus rapidly determining the amount of load of the laundry and improving reliability of the determination.

Claims 17-21 depend on claim 16 and are therefore believed to be allowable for at least the foregoing reasons.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejections is requested.

Claims 22 and 23

Amended claim 22 recites: "...a water level sensor to detect a water level of the rotary tub, the water level sensor being mounted inside the rotary tub, wherein the control unit determines the water level from the water level sensor in response to the pumping unit and the motor being simultaneously stopped." Support for this amendment may be found in at least claim 23 and paragraph [0027] of the specification.

The Office Action relies on Kwon to show the water level sensor recited in claim 22 and specifically relies on 5:12-5:18 of Kwon. In Kwon, at the water feeding step S1, a level sensor (not shown) is installed on the washing tub 60 to sense the level of water fed into the washing tub 60. Kwon, 5:12-5:18. In contrast to claim 22, in Kwon the water level sensor is installed on the washing tub 60 rather than inside the rotary tub.

Regarding the secondary reference Kim, Kim does not discuss sensing a water level at all.

This technical feature of claim 22 provides a drum washing machine which circulates water contained in a water tub into a rotary tub to be sprayed onto laundry simultaneously with the rotation of the rotary tub in opposite directions, so that the laundry is sufficiently and uniformly soaked with water within a short time, and then the amount of load of the laundry can be precisely determined, thus rapidly determining the amount of load of the laundry and improving reliability of the determination.

Claim 23 has been cancelled.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejections is requested.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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